

July 9, 2020

# BEARCAT BOARD STORY

Educating for Excellence....the Bearcat Way!



## IT'S ALWAYS EXCITING TO BE A BEARCAT!

The Gasconade County R-1 School Board met Thursday, July 9, 2020 for a regular meeting and an executive session. The meeting took place in the Central Office and through Zoom.

The meeting started with a video report from the Missouri School Board Association (MSBA) which shared information/resources about the challenges associated with re-opening schools in the fall and their focus areas of student's academic and emotional well-being upon re-entry as well as the ability to offer internet availability for all students.

Summer School is off to a great start, hosting 139 students grades K-8. The high school offered credit recovery, personal finance and personal fitness with a total of 40 students participating.

Dr. Smith shared the FY20 Budget Highlights including our FY20 positive balance of \$440,000, which will be distributed between Fund 1 and Fund 4. State Revenue withholdings will affect the State Adequacy Target, Classroom Trust, and Prop C revenue sources for the district. Each of these withholdings have been taken into consideration when preparing the budget. The FY21 budget was approved in a special follow-up Board Meeting on June 25<sup>th</sup>, which included approving movement and placement of staff on the salary schedules for 2020-2021.

Three tuition waiver requests were approved for children of certified employees. The Board also approved Policy 2019-C3 that deals with reassignments, resignations, terminations, transfers and non-renewal of staff members. The first read was approved by the Board in the June meeting.

In New Business, the Re-Entry Plan was presented to the Board. During this time, there has been great thought and research on how to best resume serving students for summer school and this fall. Input was considered from the health department, administrators, parents, students and teachers. We know that the environment related to COVID-19 may change as we move forward and details of this plan may be adjusted as we resume school. The Board will be informed on any adjustments and recommendations. You can find the approved re-entry plan on the front page of the district website or via this link: [Gasconade County R-1 Re-Entry Plan](#)

Each year, the district sets a date which the public can attend and make comments to the board regarding the proposed tax rate. This year, the date is set for August 13, 2020 at 5:50 p.m. in the board room at Central Office, preceding the regularly scheduled August board meeting.

The Food Service Meal Prices were approved for the 2020-2021 school year, with nominal increases.

As a follow-up from the May board meeting, the benefits committee met to discuss how to handle the reimbursement of sick-leave days should an extended school closure take place in the future. The benefits committee recommended the proposed policy change for the Board's consideration: If the closure lasts for 10 or more days, the buy-back rate will move from 30% to 20% if teachers and staff are not required to perform all their essential duties during the closure. The formal policy approval will take place at the August board meeting.

In executive session, the Board accepted the retirement of Judy Stock (Lead Nurse) effective October 1, 2020. We appreciate all Ms. Stock has done for the district during her 30 years of service and wish her well in her retirement. In addition, the Board approved the hire of Nichole Schroeder as a certified teacher in the High School and Jill Brooks as a part-time Psychological Examiner for the District for the 2020-2021 school year. We are excited to welcome Ms. Schroeder and Ms. Brooks (returning) to the district!

***The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting is Thursday August 6, 2020 in the Central Office.***

#### Upcoming events:

- Professional Development Day – August 5<sup>th</sup>
- New Teacher Training – August 11 – 14<sup>th</sup>
- Open Houses:
  - Early Childhood Connection (Preschool, PreK, 4 and Kindergarten) – Aug 12<sup>th</sup>
  - 1<sup>st</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades – August 20<sup>th</sup>
- First Day of School – August 24<sup>th</sup>

